

POLREP

Date: January 5, 1993
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 Subject: MORECO-Pierce Waste Oil Services Site
 Springfield, IL.
 Longitude: 89° 37' 30"
 Latitude: 39° 48' 00"
 Polrep No: Polrep 2
 Site No: RS
 D.O. No: IT #7460-05-238 / RES #5001-05-315
 Response Auth.: CERCLA/Emergency Response
 NPL Status: NON-NPL
 Start Date: 07/30/92

SITUATION:

The MORECO-Pierce Waste Oil Services Site is an inactive waste oil recycling facility located at 1925 East Madison Street. The site is situated on approximately 4 acres of land in an industrial and residential area on the Northeast side of Springfield. The property is surrounded by a chain link fence with locked gates, but sections of the fence are missing. The site is bordered by Sangomo Construction Co. property on the north, by the Illinois Central Gulf Railroad (ICGR), Capital City Ready Mix, and Contractor City Lumber on the east, and the ICGR and open areas to the west and south. Residential areas are located 700 feet west of the site.

The site contains 86 aboveground storage tanks, 2 known underground storage tanks, and 2500 drums which contain waste oils, petroleum refinery wastes, chlorinated solvents, and acids. There are nine buildings on-site which were used for offices, storage, maintenance, utility sheds and production. Other features of the site include oil recycling equipment (heaters, boilers, condensers, and separators), diked and bermed areas, and miscellaneous metal debris.

MORECO Energy Inc. is the present owner of the site, and is currently involved in Chapter 11 Bankruptcy proceedings. In part, MORECO's plan for reorganization includes abandonment of the site and two other sites in Illinois. US EPA Region 5, the Illinois

Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA), and the US Dept. of Justice are involved with the Bankruptcy proceedings.

On March 13, 1992, IEPA requested that US EPA evaluate the site for a removal action, to address abandoned wastes in tanks and drums, and soil and groundwater contamination from past releases. OSC Gebien and TAT conducted a removal action site assessment (SA) on March 11, 1992. The SA Report was completed on 5/22/92, and recommended the removal of approximately: 400,000 gallons of liquid wastes from tanks and drums, 100,000 gallons of sludge wastes, 1,767 cu. yds. of contaminated soils, 500 cu. yds. of contaminated debris, and 88 tons of scrap steel from the tanks.

On July 30 and 31, 1992, the US EPA, ERCS, Technical Assistance Team (TAT), and a representative of MORECO Energy, Inc. responded to a emergency response at the Pierce Waste Oil Service site at the request of the IEPA. The containment systems in three locations were overflowing and releasing rainwater/oily wastes. From the first containment area, approximately 6,000 gallons of rainwater/oily wastes were pumped out from the containment area which enclosed tanks 79, 80, 81, 82, and 83. The second containment area adjacent to the clay oil separator, approximately 3,000 gallons of rainwater/oily wastes were pumped out. The third containment area was adjacent to tank #70, approximately 3,000 gallons were pumped out. The rainwater/oily wastes that were collected were pumped into two tanks on-site, tanks #79 and #81.

On 12/23/92, Mr. Gregory Dunn, Project Manager, IEPA, visited the site and observed that rainwater/oily waste had again filled the site's containment systems and that the valve of tank #81 was dripping. Mr. Dunn indicated that portions of the site's perimeter fence were knocked down and that unauthorized access was evident (See attached memo from Greg Dunn).

On 12/24/92, Linda Beasley and OSC Gebien provided MORECO's President with verbal notice that U.S. EPA intended to visit the site on 12/29/92 to pump the containment systems and repair the fence. MORECO's President refused to finance these activities and indicated that MORECO no longer has any responsibility for the site, as a result of the stipulated order of 12/22/92.

ACTIONS TAKEN:

-On 12/29/92, at 10:45 pm OSC Gebien, TAT representative, four International Technical Corporation cleanup technicians (IT Crew), and two representatives of the Springfield Fire Department arrived at the site and met with Mr. Dunn. The TAT representative conducted air monitoring in the tank farm area. TAT noted that three containment areas were overflowing with oil waste/water and also contained ice. TAT conducted a perimeter check of the fence surrounding the site and noted several areas where the fence had been breached. At approximately 1:00 pm the tank truck arrived and two of the IT crew pumped the oily water from the tank farm

containment system which housed tanks 79, 80, 81, 82, and 83. Approximately 6,500 gallons were pumped from the containment system; the rest was frozen. Tank 81 was leaking at a valve and a plug was placed in the valve by IT. At the direction of OSC Gebien, the tank truck was moved to the sump adjacent to tank 70 on the northeast side of the site. Approximately 1,500 gallons oil/waste/water was pumped from the sump. The last area to be pumped was the sump area on the northeast area of the site adjacent to the clay/oil mixer. From this area only 500 gallons could be pumped because most of the liquid was frozen. All oil wastes/water were pumped into tank 79. The other two IT personnel repaired the breaches in the fence and boarded up a wall of the product storage building that had fallen in. This work was done concurrently with the containment pumping.

-On 12/30/92, OSC Gebien, TAT, and the IT crew returned to the site to observe the site in daylight and to photograph areas affected by the release and the areas where the fence had been repaired. At 9:00 am, three of the IT crew demobed from the site. The remaining IT crewman and OSC Gebien returned to the hotel to arrange for electrical service hook-up. At 11:00 am OSC Gebien returned to the site and met with Greg Dunn, Mara McGinnis and other IEPA representatives to walk the site.

-On 12/31/92, Mr. Robert Bowden, Chief, Emergency and Enforcement Response Branch verbally authorized an initial funding of \$50,000 for ERCS Riedel Environmental Services (RES) to initiate a removal action. RES will secure the site and arrange for packaging and disposal of the wastes.

NEXT STEPS:

-Complete action memorandum for a removal of wastes contained on-site.

-Meet with RES Response Manager at the site on 1/6/93 at 10:00 am to discuss the start of the removal action and arrange for installation of utilities.

-Move RES crew to the site to start the removal action on 12/11/92.

KEY ISSUES:

-Mara McGinnis, IEPA Community Relations Coordinator, and Lawrence Leveque, U.S. EPA-OPA will discuss plans for public relations involving the site.

COST INFORMATION:

	TO DATE	CEILING
non respo		

* Estimated by OSC



State of Illinois

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Mary A. Gade, Director

2200 Churchill Road, Springfield, IL 62794-9276

DATE: December 23, 1992
TO: Division File
FROM: Greg Dunn *GD*
SUBJECT: L1671200015--Sangamon County
Moreco aka Pierce Waste Oil
Superfund/Technical Reports

On December 23, 1992, a site visit was conducted at the Moreco facility in Springfield, Illinois, to determine site conditions since the August 6, 1992 visit. Only Greg Dunn of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's Pre-Notice Program was on-site during the visit, with photographs taken to document site conditions.

The site visit began at 8:30 a.m. in the vicinity of gate 4, in the southeastern corner of the site. This fence was pulled down, allowing easy access of the site by trespassers and/or vehicles. The concrete dike to the east of gate 4 was almost full of liquid to a point where overflowing of waste from the containment system could occur. A small leak in the valve of tank #81 in this containment system was observed, with the valve stuck slightly open and attempts to close the valve futile. The leak was a drip every 5 seconds.

The containment sump in the northeast corner of the facility, just west of tank #72, was observed next. The sump was almost full of material, but was not spilling onto the ground. The liquid in this containment system was frozen. This area of the site did not appear to have been disturbed since the last visit.

In the north central portion of the site, north of the clay/oil mixer, the concrete containment system was partially full of a grayish tan material. The material did not appear to be leaking out of the containment system at the time of the inspection. Drums and other debris appeared to be relocated or dumped in this area of the site.

The majority of drums in the north part of the facility appear to be untouched, but one drum was on its side and the black material inside was flowing onto the ground. Some empty drums were moved from their locations to areas near the large tank farm on the west side of the site. No other areas inside of the facility appeared to be vandalized.

A reconnaissance inspection of the outside of the facility was conducted prior to departing the area. Besides the fence at gate 4, a number of other areas of the fence were torn down or completely removed. Tires in the west portion of the site and some miscellaneous metal debris in the southern portion of the site were causing the fence to buckle. A wall on the west side of the product storage building was knocked down, with at least two drums of material pushed over and leaking. The fence in three areas, other than near gate 4, were completely down allowing easy access to the site. These areas were west of the maintenance building, just northwest of the dirt pile in the northwest corner of the site and north of the cooling tower. These areas were used by trespassers as evidenced by the trampling of the vegetation.

Approximately 36 photographs were taken of site conditions. Left the area at 9:20 a.m.